

NEWS RELEASE

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TELEMEDICINE APPRENTICESHIP MENTORS NATIVE HAWAIIAN TECHNICIANS

*Tripler/ALU LIKE projects prepare technicians
for Hawaii's High Technology Industry*

February 9, 2000- Honolulu, HI The Pacific E-Health Innovation Center (formerly the Pacific Regional Program Office- PRPO) of Tripler Army Medical Center, ALU LIKE, Inc., and Tripler Army Medical Center's Information Management Division, have formed an intern/mentorship program to help develop Native Hawaiian talent and interest in information technology.

Three Hawaiians have recently completed a six month apprenticeship in information systems engineering. Under the mentorship of Tripler's telecommunications cabling engineer team and Integrated Technical Center's help desk, these Native Hawaiian apprentices have used this program as a springboard from on-the-job training into high technology jobs, further technical training, and future careers in technology.

Senator Inouye's sponsorship of the projects, and the companies who are participating in the apprenticeship program, are examples of Hawaii's expanding role in the Pacific's high technology activities.

Local high technology companies such as Akimeka and Company, LLC, Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc., and Summit Communications have enthusiastically embraced the program, taking advantage of the opportunity to groom local, Native Hawaiian talent.

Previous graduates advanced into well paying positions as network technicians and network administrators (one graduate became a director of information technology for a non-profit agency). The project has been successful for all partners in helping prepare Native Hawaiians to fully participate as members of Hawaii's workforce and to support Hawaii's evolving high technology industry.

For more information about the Telemedicine Apprenticeship, please contact the Pacific E-Health Innovation Center at 808/433-3600, or ALU LIKE, Inc. at 808/535-6735.



In Tripler's environment of high-speed fiber optic networks, Native Hawaiian technicians like Kau'i Peralta (shown above) are getting hands-on experience in fabrication and installation of networks for telemedicine applications, as part of a collaboration between Tripler, ALU LIKE Inc., and high technology firms throughout the state.